

MARY FARMER ELECTROCUTED

Crime for Which She Suffered Death Was the Murder of Mrs. Sarah Brennan, Neighbor.

TO SECURE HER PROPERTY.

Second Woman to Die in the Electric Chair in the State Of New York.

Did Not Collapse on March to Death Chamber—Died Muzzling Prayer For the Welfare of Her Soul.

Auburn, N. Y., March 29.—Muzzling a prayer for her soul, Mrs. Mary Farmer was quietly led to the electric chair in Auburn prison shortly after 6 o'clock this morning and executed for the murder of Mrs. Sarah Brennan at Brownville, last April.

The execution of Mrs. Farmer—the second infliction of the death penalty in this state—was effected without sensational incidents. Five women, two of whom were prison attendants, were witnesses. Father Hickey, spiritual adviser of the condemned woman, following the execution, gave out a statement signed by Mrs. Farmer, in which she declared that her husband, James Farmer, was entirely innocent and knew nothing of the crime until it had been committed.

Led by Father Hickey and with Mrs. Tumman and Mrs. Gorman, who have attended her constantly since she was brought to Auburn prison, Mrs. Farmer walked unflinchingly to the death chair, her eyes half closed and clasping a crucifix in her hands. As she was being strapped in the chair, Father Hickey stood at her side and offered prayers for the dying.

Dr. John Gerin, the prison physician, said that the woman was dead after the first shock, but as there was still a tremor of muscles reaching, two additional shocks were given. State Electrician Davis said that 1,340 volts and 7 1/2 amperes was the strength of the current that passed through the woman's body. After Warden Benham announced that the physician had pronounced Mrs. Farmer dead, Dr. Edward Spitzka of Philadelphia and Dr. Charles Lambert of the Pathological Institute at Wards Island, New York, performed the autopsy.

PRAYED ALL NIGHT.

All night long the wretched woman had prayed within her cell on the second tier of the woman's department in the condemned row, after she had bade farewell to her husband.

Separated by steel bars and an intervening screen, husband and wife spent their final hour together in quiet conversation. The final word was spoken, a last good-bye, the weeping husband returned to his cell and the hapless woman was led down the narrow corridor. Early this morning Father Hickey joined the wretched woman in the cell door.

In the pale ochre light of the corridor the woman and priest prayed together, the last sacrament was administered and Mrs. Farmer said she was not afraid to die.

PREPARING FOR EXECUTION.

Mrs. Farmer was dressed in a plain black waist and skirt. Her hair was brushed back from her forehead and fell in two braids. Two or three locks were cut from the scalp so that the head electrode might be properly adjusted and the woman attendants slit the left side of the skirt as far as the knees and cut the stockings. She accepted those having official invitations were admitted to the execution. The three women witnesses were Dr. H. M. Westfall of Moravia, N. Y.; Miss Agnes H. Westfall of Auburn, N. Y.; Miss Margaret T. Byrne of Auburn, N. Y.; Miss Baird and Miss Byrne are nurses. When all was in readiness the witnesses were formed in line after being cautioned against any demonstration and led into the death chamber.

State Electrician Davis tested the dynamo and wires leading to the death chair. Everything was found to be in working order. The warden, Warden Benham, stood by the door. The warden's key was turned and the door was opened by some one within and the wretched woman was led in. The priest, Father Hickey, followed her. The warden's key was turned and the door was opened by some one within and the wretched woman was led in. The priest, Father Hickey, followed her.

WOMAN'S LAST PRAYER.

"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, have mercy on my soul."

It might have been only a few seconds before the straps were adjusted, though it seemed an interminable time. The two women attendants stood by the wall and two nurses and Dr. Westfall arranged themselves in front of the black gowned figure while Father Hickey adjusted the big electrode. The rubber mask was adjusted over the eyes and the head electrode attached. A word from the state electrician and the warden stepped back from the thick rubber mat upon which the death chair is placed.

SHOCK OF DEATH.

The hand of States Electrician Davis traced a slow arch with the switch between the curtain. A half spoken prayer was halted as the condemned woman convulsed in the leather harness that bound her to the chair. A woman attendant covered her face with her hands. Only the clicking of the tightening straps and the murmur of dynamo in an adjoining room could be heard.

The first contact lasted a full minute, the voltage starting at 1,540 and being gradually lowered to 200, then raised again to the full limit of 1,340 volts. The current was applied at 4:05 o'clock. The current was shut off and a strange sound—half moan and half murmur—came from the woman's body. Dr. Gerin and Dr. Spitzka applied the stethoscope to the heart and while Electrician Davis felt the artery in the neck. Muscular action was noted by the physicians and again the current was applied. Through the woman's body for a period of a few seconds. Once more the physicians

PRONOUNCED DEAD.

The woman was then pronounced dead, and Dr. Gerin directed the prison attendants to remove the body to the autopsy room.

Locked in his cell in a far away corner of the prison, Jim Farmer, the husband, prayed during the hour of his wife's execution. She had told him she had to die at dawn, and that she had made a statement that he was innocent of the crime. The man verged on collapse from grief and frequently gave way to tears. The husband will not be taken back to the "death row," until Wednesday morning.

The witness sheet was signed in the warden's office, a file of witnesses, unstrung and nervous, passed out from the main prison gate and the official proceedings of Mary Farmer's execution were over.

STORY OF THE CRIME.

The crime for which she was electrocuted and for which she was pronounced dead, was the murder of Mrs. Sarah Brennan, a neighbor in the village of Brownville, Jefferson county, about four miles from the city of Watertown, on Thursday, April 23, 1908. The body of Mrs. Brennan was found on the following Monday in a trunk owned by Mrs. Farmer and in her possession. Mrs. Farmer and her husband were given separate trials, and although the evidence was circumstantial, both were convicted and sentenced to be electrocuted. Mrs. Farmer's counsel attempted at the trial to establish the husband's insanity and irresponsibility for the crime, but the court of appeals declared that it was "clearly a deliberate and intentional act," and that there were no circumstances that "mitigated against its heinousness."

CAME FROM IRELAND.

Mrs. Farmer came to this country from Ireland in 1890, and worked for a time as a domestic in Birmingham, going from there to Buffalo, where she married James D. Farmer in 1894. Early in 1906 they moved to Brownville, where they remained for a few months at one of the houses owned by the Farmers. In May, 1907, they moved into a portion of an old building formerly used as a hotel in a part of Brownville known as Pugs Hill.

Mrs. Brennan and her husband Patrick lived in a house nearby which they had occupied for 20 years and which was owned by Mrs. Brennan. Mrs. Farmer became a frequent caller at the Brennan home and Mrs. Brennan occasionally called on the Farmers. Mrs. Brennan kept the deed to her property, insurance papers and a savings bank book in a black oilcloth pocketbook in a tin case in her bedroom.

Months before the homicide, in October, 1907, Mrs. Farmer went to a lawyer's office in Watertown to produce a deed of the Brennan property and, impersonating Mrs. Brennan, had the deed transferred to James D. Farmer, signing the name "Sarah Brennan." The deed was returned from the clerk's office to James D. Farmer on Nov. 25, and on Jan. 27, 1908, Mrs. Farmer and her husband went to another lawyer in Watertown and had the deed drawn to Peter J. Farmer, a child who had been born to them the preceding Sept. 2.

DAY OF THE CRIME.

On the day of the crime Mrs. Brennan's husband left early for his work, telling her she was going to visit a dentist in Watertown. Between 9 and 10 o'clock she was seen to leave her home and enter the Farmer house. She was never seen alive again. Early the same day Mrs. Farmer took her baby to the home of a neighbor and left it, saying she was going up town. Between that time and the time Mrs. Brennan went to the Farmer house, Mrs. Farmer passed back and forth between the two houses several times. Shortly after noon she went to her husband's room and arranged for a young daughter of the neighbor to assist her in caring for the child.

The girl, upon her arrival, found Farmer and his wife at lunch and later left for the home of her sister, where he was laying a walk. Soon after Mrs. Farmer went into the Brennan house, she returned and told the girl to go for her husband, but Farmer refused to return home. Mrs. Farmer then went to the sister's home with a package which proved to be the black oilcloth pocketbook of Mrs. Brennan containing the deed, insurance papers and other papers, and said she wanted to leave it for a while.

FARMERS TALK TO BRENNAN.

Brennan upon his return from work that afternoon was unable to get into his house. The keys which his wife was in the habit of leaving were not in their usual place. He called on the neighbor who was standing nearby, who remarked: "Brennan, don't you know I bought this place?" Brennan finally secured a ladder, entered the house and found the door open. He went to the door and found the house that night. The next morning he went to work as usual.

Mrs. Farmer took some morning work in the Brennan house, took Mrs. Brennan's oilcloth pocketbook from where it had been hidden in a chair, and with her husband went to Watertown where they had an attorney prepare papers, ordering Brennan out of the premises and the house. Brennan was told that the house was to be sold, and that she was to leave. She was told that the house was to be sold, and that she was to leave.

FARMERS MOVE TO BRENNAN'S.

The Farmers, in the meantime, with others who were induced to help by free access to ale which was furnished, commenced moving their goods to the Brennan house. In one of the back rooms was a large black trunk which Mrs. Farmer asked one of the men to tie with a rope. Mrs. Farmer lifted the cover of the trunk and a black oilcloth was wrapped around it and tied securely. Mrs. Farmer said "she had stuff in there she didn't want broken" and had two men carry it to the Brennan house, where she walked out and directed where it should be placed in a back room where other things were piled upon it. She then proceeded to do some washing.

When the constable who had been employed by Brennan went to the house and asked where Mrs. Brennan was, Mrs. Farmer told him she had "gone to Watertown to get her teeth fixed." She sent for the parish priest, told him a similar story and had him bless the house.

SHOT BY SAFE BLOWERS.

Trenton, Mo., March 29.—While heading a posse of men who were in pursuit of two safe blowers, City Marshal George Caraway was shot and probably fatally wounded here today. The blowers escaped.

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SAYS STATUTES ARE UNFAIR.

Commends Western Lawmakers For Their Attitude, But Sees Much Yet to Be Done.

Declares Belief of People That Railroads Are Their Enemies Is Rapidly Dying Away.

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IS UP TO BANCROFT.

"In all these matters affecting this particular region, I must refer you to Mr. Bancroft. We look upon Mr. Bancroft as 'the old grandfather' of the country, and everything in relation to this section as far as our roads go, must pass through his hands. What he does, is what we will do. I do not attempt to bother my head about purely sectional matters."

"Will there be an interurban line built soon for the benefit of Salt Lake and the neighboring country?"

"No interurban line yet," said Mr. Harriman. "The interurban at Los Angeles was engineered by speculators, and did not pay. Here in Salt Lake you don't want to get into anything where you will have dead capital lying idle. What we build we want to use. And I don't think you need any interurbans yet."

"As to Saltair, we have not purchased it and do not intend to, that I know of."

"I find a marked change of sentiment," continued the railroad king, "in many of the southern and western states, in regard to railroads, and this pleases me, because it shows that the people are getting to know that the railroads are not built into their midst with the idea of robbing them, but with the idea of building them up. The legislatures of Georgia, of Texas, of Kansas and of Utah, all treated the rail-

ROADS AS AN INTERMOUNTAIN METROPOLIS AND RAILROAD CENTER.

"Salt Lake is a good town, and will continue to be a good town," said Mr. Harriman. "But our roads are expanding just as rapidly as the country, and I don't know but more so. We have good lines, plenty of motive power, and double tracking through your country, and I don't know but what we are a little bit ahead of the times, even here in Salt Lake. But we will keep abreast of the vanguard and the people of this city and state will have nothing to complain of from the railroads."

"The adjustment of freight rates, or a reduction in the price of coal?"

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FIRE IMPOSED IN COAL CASE

Buckingham Must Pay \$1,000 And Four Other Defendants \$3,000 Each.

ACTION UNDER SHERMAN ACT.

United States, in Behalf of D. J. Sharp, Charged Conspiracy in Restra